MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 50-04

3:00 P.M, October 1, 2004

PORT CANAVERAL ENTRANCE CHANNEL SAFETY ZONE

Effective 3:00 PM, 1 October 2004, the Captain of the Port continues to impose a safety zone prohibiting movement of vessels in Northeast and Eastern Central Florida. That safety zone remains in effect only at the entrance channel to the Port of Canaveral.

The Captain of the Port is hereby granting unrestricted permission for vessels with draft less than 36 feet to enter and transit the Port Canaveral Entrance Channel Safety Zone. Vessels with draft greater than 36 feet can request permission to transit the safety zone by contacting the Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment, Port Canaveral at (321) 784-6781 weekdays during normal working hours, or the Coast Guard Integrated Command Center at (904) 247-7318 at any time.

The Captain of the Port will grant permission for vessels with draft between 36 and 38 feet to transit the safety zone on a case-by-case basis within 1 hour of high tide provided they can provide reasonable assurance that draft, hydrodynamic effects, tide, and minimum under-keel clearance can be managed to the safe bottom depth of 36 feet (below mean lower low water). Vessels will not be allowed to meet in the channel in the vicinity of the shoal. The Coast Guard has received reports of shoaling in the widener portion of the channel near buoy #13; the widener should not be used until dredging operations are completed.

Permission to transit can be made via the Canaveral Pilots to MSD Port Canaveral, or to MSD Port Canaveral directly, well in advance of the actual vessel arrival. This practice is strongly urged to assure appropriate scheduling and certainty of transit. This safety zone remains in effect until further notice. For additional information please contact LT Tedtaotao at (904) 232-2640 ext. 153.

L. D. BOWLING
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Alternate Captain of the Port